

February 3, 2003

CHIEF ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS OFFICER LETTER

THE DAVID M. WORTHEN AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

1. This letter announces the 2003 David M. Worthen Award for Academic Excellence. The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is recognized nationally as a leader in the education of health care professionals. This contribution was greatly enhanced through the dedication of the former head of Academic Affairs, the late David M. Worthen, M.D., whom the award commemorates.
2. This award may be given annually to recognize a VHA employee who has made a major contribution of national significance towards education in the health professions. The recipient receives a plaque and a cash award of \$5,000; a plaque also is presented to the facility at which the recipient is employed.
3. Facility Directors should submit their facility nominee(s) to the Chief Academic Affiliations Officer. In order to be eligible, the nominee must be currently employed at least 5/8-time in VHA as of the application closing date of April 1, 2003. Nominees may be employed in any health profession. When the contribution is a collaborative effort of two or more individuals, then all relevant individuals may be nominated as a team. Previous nominees are encouraged to reapply. Updated nomination packages are required for previous nominees.
4. The following materials should be submitted as the nomination package:
 - a. A current curriculum vitae, resume, or other summary of education and pertinent work history.
 - b. Letters of support including comments on the nominee's contributions to the educational mission of VHA. These letters of support may come from the Academic Partnership Council, facility Education Committee, Director, other Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers, Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN), and/or VHA Central Office Program Offices.
 - c. Description of recent significant achievement which enhances educational programs within VA, such as innovative educational methods, especially in our non-traditional settings (ambulatory care sites, etc.), curricula, strengthened relationships between VA and the academic community, and/or educational research. The description must be submitted in the following format:
 - (1) Summary of the Contribution.

IL 14-2003-001
February 3, 2002

- (2) Statement of Goal or Problem Addressed by Contribution.
 - (3) Process and/or Method of Accomplishment.
 - (4) Impact Statement (e.g., the measure of improvement, added value, or improved outcomes, etc.)
5. The evaluation of the nominations will consider:
- a. National significance of educational endeavor.
 - b. The contribution to VHA's educational mission.
 - c. The extent to which the contribution strengthens existing, or encourages new, beneficial relationships between VHA and other educational organizations or institutions.
 - d. The originality, creativity, and innovation of the achievement.
 - e. The nominee's national stature.
 - f. Evidence that the nominee is the major motivational force behind the achievement.
 - g. Indications of VHA-wide impact.
 - h. The potential for intra- and/or extra-VHA transferability.
 - i. The nature and extent of the tangible and intangible benefits.
 - j. The complexity of the subject addressed by the achievement.
6. To be eligible, five complete copies of the nomination package should be received in the VHA Office of Academic Affiliations (144) no later than April 1, 2003. **NOTE:** *No faxes will be accepted.* Questions may be directed to Andrew Fleshman (144) at (202) 273-8369 or e-mailed to andy.fleshman@hq.med.va.gov.

Stephanie H. Pincus, M.D., M.B.A
Chief Academic Affiliations Officer

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